

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

20 March 1981

DOCUMENT 1-39/81

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the Recommendation from the Commission of the
European Communities to the Council for a Decision
concerning the conclusion of an Agreement on
Fisheries between the Government of Canada and the
European Economic Community

Rapporteur : Mr F. GAUTIER

1.2.5

PE 71.219/fin.

On 10 March 1981 the President of the European Parliament placed on the agenda of the part-session on 23 to 26 March 1981, pursuant to Rule 12(2) of the Rules of Procedure, the report by the Committee on Agriculture on the Recommendation from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision concerning the conclusion of an Agreement on Fisheries between the Government of Canada and the European Economic Community, which the President of the Commission had forwarded to the European Parliament for information on 26 December 1980.

On 22 January 1981 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Gautier rapporteur.

It considered this Recommendation for a decision at its meetings of 16/17 February 1981, 26/27 February 1981 and 11 March 1981.

At the last-mentioned meeting it adopted the motion for a resolution attached to it by 24 votes, with one abstention.

Present: Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Mr Früh, vice-chairman; Mr Gautier, rapporteur; Mrs Barbarella, Mr Blaney (deputizing for Mr Skovmand), Mr Clinton, Mr Colleselli, Mr Curry, Mr Dalsass, Mr De Keersmaecker (deputizing for Mr Bocklet), Mr Delatte, Mr Fanton, Mr Giummarra, Mr Helms, Mrs Herklotz, Mr Hord, Mr Howell (deputizing for Mr Battersby), Mrs Martin (deputizing for Mr Jürgens), Mr B. Nielsen, Mr d'Ormesson, Mr Pranchère, Mr Provan, Mr Sutra, Mr Tolman and Mr Wettig.

The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the Recommendation from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Decision concerning the conclusion of an Agreement on Fisheries between the Government of Canada and the European Economic Community

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the recommendation from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(80) 887 final),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc.1-39/81),
 - having regard to the two Agreements in the form of an exchange of letters between the EEC and Canada concerning the extension of their Agreement on Fisheries and concerning salmon fishing¹, which provided access for Community vessels to Canadian waters during 1980,
 - whereas it is essential to maintain access to the fisheries of the North West Atlantic in view of the loss of access for the Community's long distance fishing fleet to the waters of several other third countries,
 - whereas the proposed Agreement is based on a grant of long term fishing rights for Community vessels in Canadian waters in exchange for Canadian access to the EEC market for semi-processed fish at reduced tariffs,
 - whereas the Community would be allocated a quota of 14,500 tonnes of cod and 7,000 tonnes of squid in 1981, rising to 16,000 tonnes of cod in subsequent years,
1. Considers that a Fisheries Agreement with Canada is essential to the future operation of the deep sea fleets of a number of member countries, particularly of Germany, France and the United Kingdom;
 2. Feels that this agreement could improve fishing conditions for vessels from all the Member States without exception, and in general strengthen their trade and economic cooperation relations with Canada;
 3. Believes that the quotas obtained under the Canadian Agreement constitute an essential element in discussions for quota allocations within Community waters;
 4. Notes that Community quotas in Canadian waters could be increased if Canada proved unable to harvest all of its total allowable catches;

¹ OJ No. L 226, 29.8.1980, p. 51

5. Points out that the tariff quotas to be granted to Canada for frozen and filleted cod, frozen redfish and herring flaps, represents in the case of cod only 0.5% of total Community requirements, i.e. 75,000 tonnes of wet fish;
6. Considers, however, that the tonnage of fillets in round fish equivalent should be reduced considerably, and be replaced by a higher tonnage of frozen round fish to ensure the maximum amount of processing takes place within the Community;
7. Points out furthermore that Community supplies of herring will be insufficient until the severe restrictions for conservation reasons on herring fishing in Community waters are lifted;
8. Emphasizes that in view of the possibility of lifting these restrictions within the terms of the agreement, the inclusion of tariff reductions for herring should not be taken as a precedent for the inclusion of this species in future tariff agreements;
9. Emphasizes the fact that under the proposed new fisheries market organization all imports would be prevented from entering the Community at below the guide price and that therefore a countervailing charge could be imposed even on reduced tariff imports in the case of market disturbances;
10. Stresses the necessity to act quickly to apply countervailing charges and believes that this should be done automatically;
11. Stresses the importance of maintaining adequate supplies to the processing industries which provide an important source of employment in the maritime regions;
12. Expresses concern, however, at the difficulty in reaching satisfactory agreement on salmon quotas for Community fishermen in the West Atlantic;
13. Notes the increasing opposition to the Agreement from Canadian fishermen, but believes that such a long term Fisheries Agreement is essential for the long term future of the Community deep sea fleet, and for proper planning and investment programmes;
14. Hopes that in future the Commission will consult the Parliament, by a suitable procedure, about the general approach which it intends to take in negotiations affecting the interests of Community fishermen;
15. Approves, therefore, the Commission's proposal.

MAIN POINTS OF THE PROPOSED EEC-CANADA FISHERIES AGREEMENTA. Quotas to be allocated to Community fishermen in Canadian waters

	<u>1981</u>	<u>Subsequent years</u>
COD	14,500 tonnes	16,000 tonnes
SQUID	7,000 tonnes	7,000 tonnes

B. Reduced duty tariff quotas to be allocated to Canada by the EEC

Tariff quotas will vary from one year to the next, with a total of approximately 30,000 tonnes of fish, distributed as follows:

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Duty</u>
COD (frozen, slab) and redfish	5,666 tonnes	3.8%
COD FILLETS	20,000 tonnes	6% and 4%
HERRING FILLETS	5,000 tonnes	10%

CATCHES IN NORTH-WEST ATLANTIC
('000 t.)

	<u>1973</u>	<u>as % of total catches</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>as % of total catches</u>
GER	94.4	19.74	52.3	12.69
FR	36.4	4.47	30.3	3.80
IT	4.0	0.99	9.1	2.26
UK	8.4	0.72	0.8	0.07
IRL	0	0	1.0	0.92
DK	<u>0.5</u>	<u>0.03</u>	<u>3.5</u>	<u>0.20</u>
EUR 9	<u>143.7</u>	<u>2.99</u>	<u>97.0</u>	<u>1.98</u>
<u>All areas</u> <u>EUR 9</u>	4799.0		4892.8	

EEC LANDINGS COD 1979

BEL	2,634
DK	102,497
IRL	444
FR	21,287
GER	54,841
NETH	30,059
UK	126,388
EEC	338,150

EEC IMPORTS

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1979</u>
Fresh, chilled and frozen fish	436,000	607,000

IMPORTS OF COD 1979 (000 kg)

COD, UNFILLETED, FRESH OR REFRIGERATED

	EUR 9	GER	FR	NETH	BEL/ LUX	UK	DK	IRL
Iceland	15610	701	-	-	1	14765	143	
Faroes	682	67	-	-	-	509	106	
Norway	1227	14	286	2	35	491	399	
Sweden	4761	142	20	-	1	120	4478	
Poland	5229	980	342	1027	-	310	2570	
World	27558	1903	648	1029	68	16209	7701	

COD, UNFILLETED, FROZEN

Iceland	1087	104	16	-	-	905	-	35
Faroes	465	67	-	-	-	398	-	-
Norway	2678	3	128	4	-	2374	115	-
Sweden	1199	-	-	18	-	151	1030	-
Spain	481	-	-	-	-	461	-	-
Poland	1659	-	-	53	-	434	1172	-
South Africa	1053	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada	1584	110	143	-	-	1111	-	-
Chile	220	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Argentina	677	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Israel	415	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Japon	294	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
New Zealand	156	-	-	-	-	21	-	-
World	12312	321	288	74	-	5921	2417	35

COD FILLETS, FRESH OR REFRIGERATED

World	25	3	5	-	1	15	1	-
<u>COD FILLET, FROZEN</u>								
Iceland	12702	25	110	-	571	11996	-	-
Faroes	2369	21	318	-	-	2029	1	-
Norway	29803	939	293	336	147	28009	59	-
Sweden	130	2	120	-	-	8	-	-
Spain	174	-	152	11	-	11	-	-
Poland	74	-	-	-	-	-	74	-
Canada	2639	331	193	-	-	2115	-	-
Greenland	194	16	-	-	-	-	178	-
Argentina	1250	60	237	-	-	-	-	-
Japan	87	41	21	-	-	25	-	-
World	49512	1435	1479	351	718	44213	342	-

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Faroes	662	67	-	-	509	106	-
Norway	1227	14	286	2	491	399	-
Sweden	4761	142	20	1	120	4478	-
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South Africa	1053	-	-	-	-	-	-
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Greenland	194	16	-	-	-	-	178
Argentina	1250	60	237	-	-	-	-
Japan	87	41	21	-	-	25	-
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